

3. From James 3:2, 3–5, and 7–8, identify specific influences of the tongue.

4. In Proverbs 12:18 and 18:21, what contrasts and consequences are given?

DAY 2 | The Contrast Between Wise and Foolish Speech

Read selected Scriptures

1. For a deeper understanding of sinful speech, use a dictionary to define the following words.
 - a. gossip

 - b. complain

 - c. boast

 - d. slander

 - e. ridicule

 - f. sarcasm

 - g. criticism

- h. With which of these do you struggle the most? How can you fight the temptation to speak in that way?

- 2. From Proverbs 8:6–13, identify different characteristics or descriptions of Wisdom’s speech.
 - a. In contrast to Lady Wisdom’s speech, how is the speech of the forbidden woman described in Proverbs 5:3–4 and 7:5, 11, and 21?

- 3. From Proverbs 10, contrast the speech of the righteous and wicked in verses 10–11, 14, 18, 21, and 31–32.

- 4. In your own words, what do you think Proverbs 18:21 means?
 - a. What types of words give life, and how can a believer cultivate and develop that habit?

DAY 3 | Evil Speech and Its Consequences

Read selected Scriptures

1. From the following verses, list some of the marks of foolish or sinful speech and identify its consequences.
 - a. Proverbs 6:12–19, 19:5

 - b. Proverbs 16:27–28

 - c. Proverbs 18:6–8

 - d. Proverbs 18:13, 29:20

 - e. Proverbs 26:20–28, 29:5

 - f. Proverbs 11:9, 12:13

2. According to Proverbs 14:7 and 20:19 and 2 Timothy 2:16–17, what is the danger of associating with someone who behaves and speaks foolishly or sinfully, and how should you respond to them?

3. Are you tolerating foolish or irreverent speech from friends or co-workers? What can you do practically to honor the Lord more in those relationships?

DAY 4 | The Blessings of Godly Speech

Read selected Scriptures

1. What benefit is identified in Proverbs 10:19, 14:29, 15:18, 17:27, and 29:20, and how is it accomplished?

2. From the following verses identify some of the many blessings of godly speech.
 - a. Proverbs 13:2–3, 14:3, 21:23

 - b. Proverbs 12:25, 16:22–24

3. According to 2 Timothy 2:24–26, what should one’s speech be like with unbelievers? What is the goal behind this?
 - a. What adjustments might you need to make to your own speech when confronting sin and sharing truth?

4. Share with your group a specific time you have seen the Lord give you wisdom in how to speak to someone, and how the Lord blessed that situation.

5. According to 1 Corinthians 13:1, it is possible to say the right thing, but do so without love? What encouragement does Colossians 4:5–6 give you as you seek to speak the truth in love?

DAY 5 | Cultivating Godly Speech

Read selected Scriptures

1. According to Proverbs 8:13, how does God respond to evil speech?

2. What do Ecclesiastes 5:2–7 and Job 40:1–5 teach about the way believers are to speak to God?
 - a. Are there areas in which you are sinning in your speech before God? What needs to change?

3. What promise does God give in 1 John 1:9?
 - a. Is there any sinful way of speaking over which the Lord has convicted you this week? Pray and ask God's forgiveness, and if appropriate, seek the forgiveness of the person you wronged.

4. After repenting and putting off the sins of evil speech, what should you “put on” according to the following verses?
 - a. Ephesians 4:15, 29–32

 - b. Colossians 4:5–6

5. Consider Psalm 141:3 and identify one practical step you will take this week to protect yourself from sinning with your words and share that with your group.